

Organic Land Care *with*



"I appreciate the misunderstanding I have had with Nature over my perennial border.

I think it is a flower garden; she thinks it is a meadow lacking grass, and tries to correct the error."

~Sara Stein, *My Weeds*, 1988

Organic Land Care with SOUL is published ten times per year by the Society for Organic Urban Land Care

Our Mission:

"To support our communities in their transition to organic practices".

This newsletter is distributed free of charge to all SOUL members. Please feel free to share this publication.

SOUL

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To find an organic land care professional in your area please visit the SOUL website at:
www.organiclandcare.org

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Attention Landscape Professionals!

There is still room in the 1 week intensive courses in Organic Horticulture in
Victoria: starting January 22, 2007
Burnaby: starting February 5, 2007
Richmond: starting February 26, 2007

There is no better way to gain a thorough understanding of the principles and practices of totally non-toxic horticulture, and how to apply them in your day-to-day practices immediately. This course is only offered once a year, so if you were thinking of finding out about "organics" this is your chance.

AND earn fantastic PRE-APPROVED Continuing Education Credits:

* 31.5 credits for ISA Certified Arborists and Board Certified Management Arborists. This takes care of your whole 3-year renewal requirements!

* 10 credits for B.C. Pesticide Applicators (IPM category) - the maximum that can be earned in any one year

* BCSLA credits as per guidelines (eligibility confirmed).

If you are a landscape Architect you will know how to do this.

* 35 credits for SOUL Organic Land Care Professionals.

This takes care of your whole 3-year renewal requirements!

* 35 credits for CHTs - well in excess of your yearly renewal requirements.

Find out everything you need to know at the Gaia College website, and you can register on-line as well:

http://www.gaiacollege.ca/Gaia_College/programs/professionals

Regards,

Heide Hermary, Gaia College

<http://www.gaiacollege.ca>

Yucca extract effective against scab in apple cultivation

Winter is traditionally the time when we get to prune and dormant-spray our fruit trees. Check out this exciting piece of research on prevention of apple scab, done at a Dutch university.

12.07.2006

By Jac Niessen

Further info at www.wur.nl

Researchers of Wageningen University and Research Centre (Netherlands) have shown that yucca extract has an efficient preventive and curative effect on scab in apples. This represents an important breakthrough in the organic growing of apples. The discovery may also benefit non-organic cultivation, where scab is the number one disease, as use of the extract will probably reduce the need for chemical pesticides. A patent application has been submitted and the yucca extract will soon be developed into a concrete product.

Researchers of Applied Plant Research (PPO), a part of Wageningen University and Research Centre are involved in intense cooperation with various European partners for the purpose of durable scab control in organic apple cultivation. Apple scab is caused by a fungus (*Venturia inaequalis*) and is a major economic issue in all areas where apples are grown. The disease mainly develops in cool, rainy conditions in the spring, and the resulting spots can make apples difficult to sell. Furthermore, early leaf loss generates indirect damage by reducing the vitality of the trees.

The researchers studied the effects of yucca extracts in the laboratory as well as in the orchard. When examining apple seedlings in the laboratory, researchers found that the extract had both a preventive and a curative effect. The extract achieves the former by preventing the fungus from budding and thereby from infecting the plants. A curative effect is also active until at least one day after the plant is infected by the fungus.

The extract was shown to be promising in practice as well during field tests in a PPO orchard in Randwijk, the Netherlands, and another orchard in Denmark. The effects were found to be as good as those of a low dose of copper. While organic growers in Europe currently depend primarily on copper, sulphur and lime sulphur to fight scab, copper is no longer allowed in the Netherlands, and the European Commission has decided to ban the use of copper throughout Europe.

This study took place under the auspices of the EU project Repco (Project Nr. 501452), which stands for Replacement of Copper in Organic Production of Grapevine and Apple in Europe, and is partly financed by the 6th Framework programme of the European Commission. The goal of this project is to find alternatives for copper in the organic production of grapevine and apples.



Coming Up:

The Canadian Home Builders' Association Home and Garden Show

March 2, 3, 4, 2007

Save-On Foods Memorial Centre, Victoria, B.C.

Visit the SOUL display!